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**\$35.3 MILLION TO GO TO PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES  
Board of Commissioners of Public Lands Announces Record Library Aid  
Generated from the Common School Fund**

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands announced today that a record amount of library aid resulting from [Common School Fund](#) earnings will be forwarded to the Department of Public Instruction for its annual distribution to Wisconsin's kindergarten through twelfth grade public school libraries. This year's distribution will be more than \$28 per student.

Earnings from the Common School Fund total a record setting \$35.3 million. These funds are derived from the interest earned on loans to school districts and municipalities for infrastructure and public purpose projects utilizing the [State Trust Fund Loan Program](#). The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands administers both the Common School Fund and the State Trust Fund Loan Program.

"Public school libraries benefit greatly from the Board's prudent investment strategies," said Secretary of State Doug La Follette, who serves as Chair of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. "For some school districts, the library aid provided by the Common School Fund may be the only money available for their library."

The Common School Fund was established as a permanent "school fund" through the state's constitution. The principal continues to grow from the collection of civil and criminal fines, fees and forfeitures, and proceeds from the state's unclaimed property program.

"The State Trust Fund Loan Program allows the principal of the Common School Fund to be safely invested in Wisconsin's infrastructure," said State Treasurer and Commissioner Dawn Marie Sass. "By funding local projects and using the earnings from those loans to support public school libraries, we are providing multiple benefits to communities across Wisconsin."

The Board has provided over \$152 million in public school library aid since 2004. Library media coordinators in each school district may use the money for library materials including audiovisual materials, library books, computer equipment and software, and newspapers and periodicals for their library media centers.

"Serving on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands is a special responsibility of the Attorney General. It has been rewarding to participate in the Board's legacy of service to Wisconsin's future," said Attorney General and Commissioner J.B. Van Hollen.

"Libraries open the world of information to our children. We need strong school library programs that support achievement for all students and close the achievement gap," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "The Common School Fund is an important source of funding for school libraries and we are pleased that our school libraries will use the funds to obtain needed resources that will benefit all their students."

Created in 1848 by the Wisconsin Constitution, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands was established to accept federal land grants and to manage trust funds for the benefit of public education in Wisconsin. The majority of Trust Fund assets are held in the Common School Fund, from which most State Trust Fund loans are issued.

For a photo of the event, visit: <http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=16263&locid=145>

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